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10/719,964	11/24/2003	Emil Gran		3575

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EXAMINER
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AZARIAN, SEYED H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/719,964	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GRAN, EMIL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Seyed Azarian	<b>Art Unit</b> 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Abstract**

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because format for an abstract of the discloser, generally limited to a single paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### **Specification**

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

For example in claim 1, "a laser-based distance measuring device mounted on the outside of the patrol or street sweeping vehicle, or within a handheld unit, is not described. In claim 2, setting a threshold for the proximity sensor to indicate a distance violation is not described.

The Examiner needs specific details of how all elements in all the claims are enabled.

An examination of this application reveals that applicant is unfamiliar with patent prosecuting procedure. While an inventor may prosecute the application, lack of skill in

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this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed.

Applicant is advised to secure the services of a registered patent attorney or agent to prosecute the application, since the value of a patent is largely dependent upon skillful preparation and prosecution. The Office cannot aid in selecting an attorney or agent.

Applicant is advised of the availability of the publication "Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office". This publication is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-20, 26-29 and 32-40, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kielland (U.S. patent RE38,626) in view of Howard et al (U.S. 6,885,311).

Regarding claim 1, Kielland discloses a suite of parking regulation control systems for capturing visual and numerical information about a parked vehicle, the

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system comprising: (see Abstract, a video camera (visual) is mounted on a patrol vehicle and connected to a computer. The system (suite) each parked car has been parked longer than the limit. Violations are detected using a License Plate Recognition (LPR) algorithm to the images. Vehicle is time tagged, geo-referenced, and entered into database. System can print citation. Also, column 7, lines 11 -16 (License Plate Recognition algorithm extracts alphanumeric text));

a laser-based distance measuring device mounted on the outside of the patrol or street sweeping vehicle, or within a handheld unit (column 9, lines 45-55 electronic proximity sensor 52 is mounted near the front end of the patrol vehicle, the proximity sensor measures the changing distance, the range finder (distance measure) employed can be ultrasonic ranging, or laser ranging);

a positioning arm to which the housing is mounted that can be aimed from within the patrol or street sweeping vehicle (see Figs 2 and 3, also, column 9, lines 58-65, the camera 51 is affixed to the patrol vehicle by means of an adjustable mounting fixture (positioning arm) that permits the camera to be affixed (aimed) at any location as it transits the proximity sensors measurement beam 52);

a video monitor mounted inside the patrol or street sweeping vehicle to display captured images and indicate what the camera is aimed at (column 8, lines 29-32, computer system 101 includes a display device 130 (e.g. a computer monitor) also, column 8, lines 49-50, computer system 101 is mounted within a patrol vehicle);

a memory device in the patrol or street sweeping vehicle to capture, combine, and store individual still frames of the video data, along with date and time; a means for

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manually triggering the capture of a still frame of video data (column 9, lines 40-41 the capture of each license plate image (still image) is initiated manually by an operator who aims and triggers the video camera, also column 12, lines 36-43, at the same time that each vehicles raster image (still image) is captured by the video camera the computer also captures the current time (from the time sensor 55) and the vehicles current geographical position (from positioning sub-system 53). These three observed data (time, location and vehicle identifier) are concatenated (connected) and stored in the systems database 113 (memory). Each of these data records are referred to as Epoch-ID).

However regarding claim 1, Kielland discloses the camera and laser measuring device mounted to the "outside of a vehicle", but does not explicitly disclose it corresponding "a waterproof miniature closed-circuit television camera mounted on the outside of the patrol vehicle, or within a handheld unit, and a housing to contain both measuring device and camera". On the other hand Howard in the same field of parking regulation teaches (column 13, line 15, refers to lasers, and column 13, lines 23-38, detector 1705 configured in a single, self-contained and environmentally sealed package (weatherproof housing), also detector 1705, (Fig. 17) included transmitter 1703, the antenna 1704, the microcontroller 1702, and vehicle sensor (laser/ measuring device) 1701 with a packaged volume of less than five cubic inches (one housing)).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kielland invention according to the teaching of Howard because combination of Kielland and Howard provides the camera and

measuring device (laser) in Kielland s' system to be housed together in a single waterproof housing as taught by Howard.

Regarding claim 2, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a proximity sensor for measuring distances between a parked vehicle and a point of reference (column 9, lines 45-55 electronic proximity sensor 52 is mounted near the front end of the patrol vehicle, the proximity sensor measures the changing distance between the patrol car (point of reference) and the sides of parked cars, the range finder (distance measure) employed can be ultrasonic ranging, or laser ranging);

a means of setting a threshold for the proximity sensor to indicate a distance violation; a visual indication in the video monitor of the proximity value and when a threshold has been exceeded (column 14, lines 1-15, to reduce false alarms from the violation detection algorithm, the operator can set a threshold value, lowering it may waste more time since the officer will have to visually verify the violation when alarm is sounded);

a coupling of proximity data with the video data that is also captured (column 8, lines 62-64, (column 12, lines 36-41, at the same instant raster image and geographical position (proximity data) are captured and then are concatenated (coupled));

an output from the memory device for display of the combined image on a single monitor; a data storage device in the patrol or street sweeping vehicle for taking the combined image data and storing it, a means for manually triggering the storage of combined images from the memory device to the storage device (column 14, lines 30-

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35, the stored raster imagery (combined images output from memory) serves as a means of verifying the validity of LPR, the system immediately displays the two raster images, the officer inspects the displayed images on the monitor 130, , this is carried out by the officer, before printing ticket See fig. 1, Step 103 memory, step 56 link to external database (storage)).

Regarding claim 4, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a data processing module for executing software applications; a character recognition application for the conversion of graphics data to text data; a means for automatically initiating the character recognition application (column 12, line 64 through column 13, line 13, refers to Data Processing, the computer applies a " License Plate Recognition algorithm to the image, pattern matching LPR and Full mode LPR ( character recognition software application) are applied to the captured image. The LPR sub-system at the same instant as the image is captured and a unique vehicle identifier is extracted from it; system also captures time and geographical coordinates (graphics to text)).

Regarding claim 5, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a wireless communication system device for transferring stored data from the patrol or street sweeping vehicle to another site; a means for initiating the transfer of data from the patrol or street sweeping vehicle (column 9, lines 24-31, a data link (wireless) enables the transfer of information to and from various external databases, the link to data may be at a remote site, or data stored on board the patrol vehicle).



Regarding claim 6, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the video target is a license plate number of the parked vehicle (column 9, line 41-45, the capture of license plate image may be manual or automatic).

Regarding claim 7, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the video target is a parking-permit on the parked vehicle (column 22, line 65, refers to displays handicap sticker (parking permit)).

Regarding claim 8, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the video target is a motor vehicle registration sticker of the parked vehicle (column 19, lines 26-32, bar codes or magnetic encoding strips that contain information to identify the vehicles unique identity equivalent to the alphanumeric license plate number can be scanned).

Regarding claim 10, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the video target is a partial or full view of the parked vehicle (column 9, line 37, each raster image shows a view of a parked car).

Regarding claim 11, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the video target is a fire hydrant or any other point of reference (column 27, line 24, refers to observed vehicle is parked too close to fire hydrant).

Regarding claim 12, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, further comprising a camera-aiming mechanism to control pan, tilt, zoom from within the patrol or street sweeping vehicle (column 11, line 65 through

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column 12, line 3, the camera can be rotated from it's oblique orientation, (angle forward (zoom, tilt) to the substantially orthogonal orientation depicted in Fig. 4, (angled straight out)

Regarding claim 13, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the camera-aiming mechanism has a telescoping extension arm on the outside of the patrol or street sweeping vehicle (column 9, lines 58-65, the camera<sup>51</sup> is affixed to the patrol vehicle by means of an adjustable mounting fixture (telescopic positioning arm) that permits the camera to be affixed (aimed) at any location as it transits the proximity sensors measurement beam <sup>52</sup>).

Regarding claim 14, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to a fire hydrant (column 27, line 24, refers to observed vehicle is parked too close to fire hydrant).

Regarding claim 15 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to a curb (column 27, line 24-25, vehicle too close to a driveway, hydrant, loading zone, etc).

Regarding claim 16 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to a driveway (column 27, line 24-25, vehicle too close to driveway).

Regarding claim 17 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to a restricted parking zone (column 27, line 24-25, vehicle too close to loading zone).

Regarding claim 18, Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to a street corner (column 27, line 24-25, vehicle too close to a driveway, hydrant, loading zone, etc).

Regarding claim 19 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, wherein the proximity target is a vehicle relative to any other point of reference (column 27, line 24-25, vehicle too close to a driveway, hydrant, loading zone, etc).

Regarding claim 20 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 2, further comprising a proximity device mounting-bracket located on the exterior of the patrol vehicle (see Fig. 2, item 52, also column 9, lines 46-47, an electronic "proximity sensor" 52 is mounted near the front of the vehicle).

Regarding claim 26 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 4, further comprising a data processing module coupled to the memory device (see fig. 1, Step 103 memory, and step 56 links to external database (storage)).

Regarding claim 28 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 4, wherein the character recognition engine target is a vehicle registration (column 19, lines 26-32, bar codes or magnetic encoding strips that contain information to identify the vehicles unique identity equivalent to the alphanumeric license plate number can be scanned).

Regarding claim 29 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 4, wherein the character recognition engine target is a parking permit (column 22, line 65, refers to displays handicap sticker (parking permit)).

Regarding claim 32 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 5, wherein the data communication module is coupled to the memory device (column 9, lines 40-41 the capture of each license plate image (still image) is initiated manually by an operator who aims and triggers the video camera, also column 12, lines 36-43, at the same time that each vehicles raster image (still image) is captured by the video camera the computer also captures the current time (from the time sensor55) and the vehicles current geographical position (from positioning sub-system 53). These three observed data (time, location and vehicle identifier) are concatenated (connected) and stored in the systems database 113 (memory). Each of these data records are referred to as Epoch-ID).

Regarding claim 33 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 5, wherein the memory device transfers information to the communication module in one or more formats that are compatible with third-party systems (column 28, line 55-56, each vehicle observed by the system can be searched for in various crime-related databases, also, column 29, lines 13-21, the recognized plate-string would be matched on the "wanted-list" maintained in the systems linked database, also (column 9, lines 24-31, a data link (wireless) enables the transfer of information to and from various external databases, the link to data may be at a remote site, or data stored on board the patrol vehicle).

Regarding claim 34 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 5, wherein the data communication module sends license plate data to third-party systems for verification of whether or not a vehicle is stolen (column 28, line

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60-61, identifying vehicles that have been reported stolen, also, column 29, lines 13-21, the recognized plate-string would be matched on the "wanted-list" maintained in the systems linked database, any match would trigger a message to the Enforcement officer to take appropriate measures).

Regarding claim 36 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 5, wherein the data communication module sends composite image data to another site for generation of parking citations (column 20, lines 44-63 when the data observed by patrol unit is linked to an external database it can be sent to Parking Authority, Parking Authority can mail an extract from its database 56 that details the client's parking activity and the resulting fines (generated parking citation)).

Regarding claim 37 Kielland discloses a method for enforcing parking regulations comprising, capturing an image of a parked vehicle (See Abstract, a video camera (visual) is mounted on a patrol vehicle and connected to a computer. The system (suite) each parked car has been parked longer then the limit. Violations are detected using a License Plate Recognition (LPR) algorithm to the images);

capturing second of the vehicle, parking meter, hydrant, or other reference points; combining all images along with text (column 11, lines 36-49 when the cameras frame grabber is triggered it captures a series of images of the same license plate (reference point) all of the imagery is geo-referenced, timed stamped and archived (combined and stored);

storing the combined data in the patrol or street sweeping vehicle, transferring the stored data to another site (column 12, lines 36-43, at the same time that each vehicles

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raster image (still image) is captured by the video camera the computer also captures the current time (from the time sensor<sup>55</sup>) and the vehicles current geographical position (from positioning sub-system 53). These three observed data (time, location and vehicle identifier) are concatenated (connected) and stored in the systems database 113 (memory). Each of these data records are referred to as Epoch-ID, also column 20, lines 44-63 when the data observed by patrol unit is linked to an external database it can be sent to Parking Authority);

generating a traffic citation; billing the customer based on the type of violation incurred (column 20, lines 44-63 when the data observed by patrol unit is linked to an external database it can be sent to Parking Authority, Parking Authority can mail an extract from its database 56 that details the client's parking activity and the resulting fines (generated parking citation)).

Regarding claim 38 Kielland discloses the method for enforcing parking regulations, as recited in claim 35, further comprising the steps of (column 8, lines 49-54, the computer system is mounted within a parking regulation enforcement patrol vehicle);

comparing the proximity of the parked vehicle with one or more fixed reference points; and overlaying the proximity value as text on the combined image data (column 13, lines 35-39, since infractions are detected by subtracting two time stamped observations, as long as the time stamped Epoch I.D. (image, time, location (proximity), are accurate within a few seconds it will be accurate).

Regarding claim 39 Kielland discloses the method for enforcing parking regulations, as recited in claim 35, further comprising the steps of: analyzing images for characters; and overlaying the characters as text on the combined image data (column 12, lines 36-41, the image and geographical position are captured by the camera and sensors, then the time, location, and vehicle identifier (time stamped, overlay) are concatenated (combined) and stored in the systems database).

With regard to claims 27, 35 and 40, the arguments analogous to those presented above for claims 6, 34 and 37 are respectively applicable to claims 27, 35 and 40.

6. Claims 3, 9, 21-25 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kielland (U.S. patent RE38, 626) and Howard et al (U.S. 6,885,31 as applied to claims above and further in view of Jones (U.S. 6,459,386).

Regarding claim 3, Kielland (Fig.1) disclose systems for multiple imaging, time/date, and acquiring the images and a memory for storing and combining the images in regards to parking enforcement. But neither Kielland nor Howard explicitly disclose its corresponding, "a switch on the housing to select the number of images to be combined in the composite image". On the other hand Jones in the same field of parking violation teaches (column 3, lines 26-37, Fig.3, the operator controls 48 allow, among other things, a panel (housing) with a display unit 46, including an acquire button 50 (switch), view buttons 52, and a passenger/driver select button 54. Also, column 4, lines 35-39, operator does determine that the crucial data (number of images) is contained by viewing the displayed images, the operator chooses to acquire the images 110 by

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pressing the acquire button. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the parking monitoring system of Kielland and Howard because it provides a button (switch) for the operator to choose which images to be combined, according to the teaching of Jones).

Regarding claims 9 and 30, Kielland discloses a system containing a camera with proximity sensors and character recognition for imaging parking violations that targets automobiles, license plates, hydrants, and etc. But does not explicitly disclose it corresponding, "the video target is a display window of a parking meter and character recognition engine target is a parking meter". On the other hand Jones in the same field of parking violation teaches (column 3, lines 52-68, one of the cameras on the front of the official vehicle has the side of the vehicle in full view, and is also able to record the violation by viewing the expired parking meter, the operator is prompted "acquire images? ", If the operator is satisfied that the display images record the violation, the acquire button may be pressed, causing the display images to be digitized and stored). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kiellands' monitoring system so that the camera, sensors and character recognition could record the target image of a parking meter using character recognition.

Regarding claim 21 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 3, further comprising a display coupled to the memory device, the display showing the first captured image on one side of the screen and the second image on the other side of the screen (see claim 3, display 2 images on monitor).



Regarding claim 22 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 3, wherein the memory device overlays the display with text indicating the date and time (column 12, lines 36-44, combining image with date and time).

Regarding claim 23 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 3, wherein the memory device overlays the display with text indicating a proximity value and violation threshold (column 12, lines 36-43, at the same time that each vehicles raster image (still image) is captured by the video camera the computer also captures the current time (from the time sensor<sup>55</sup>) and the vehicles current geographical position (from positioning sub-system 53). These three observed data (time, location and vehicle identifier) are concatenated (connected) and stored in the systems database 113 (memory). Each of these data records are referred to as Epoch-ID).

Regarding claim 24 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 3, wherein the number of memory device overlays can be adjusted (column 14, lines 58-67, the officer can plot (adjust) the vectors/or plate models onto the systems display screen).

Regarding claim 31 Kielland discloses the parking regulation control system, as recited in claim 3, wherein the memory device overlays the display with text indicating the output of the character recognition engine (see claim 1, combining image also column 12, lines 36-43, at the same time that each vehicles raster image (still image) is captured by the video camera the computer also captures the current time (from the time sensor 55) and the vehicles current geographical position (from positioning sub-

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system 53). These three observed data (time, location and vehicle identifier) are concatenated (connected) and stored in the systems database 113 (memory). Each of these data records are referred to as Epoch-ID).

With regard to claims 25 and 30 the arguments analogous to those presented above for claims 3 and 9 are respectively applicable to claims 25 and 30.

### Other prior art cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. patent (6,657,555) to Shimizu et al is cited for parking operation-aiding system.

U.S. patent (6,081,206) to Kielland is cited for parking regulation enforcement system.

U.S. patent (7,029,167) to Mitschele is cited for parking meter.

U.S. patent (7,019,670) to Bahar is cited for enhanced parking meter utilizing user identification technology.

U.S. patent (6,885,311) to Howard et al is cited for parking management system.

### **Contact Information**

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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7443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu, can be reached at (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seyed Azarian  
Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2624  
June 11, 2006

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seyed azarian".